

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-71 were previously cancelled. Claims 72, 75, 107 and 109 are currently amended. Claims 73, 74, 76-106, 108 and 110-123 are carried forward, all as follows.

Claims 1-71 (Cancelled)

72. (New) A printing press comprising:

a first printing group including a first forme cylinder having a first forme cylinder axial direction and a first forme cylinder circumferential direction, and a first ink transfer cylinder adapted to transfer a first portion of at least one common printed image to a material to be printed as the material to be printed is passed through said first printing group in a production direction;

a second printing group including a second forme cylinder having a second forme cylinder axial direction and a second forme cylinder circumferential direction, and a second ink transfer cylinder adapted to transfer a second portion of said at least one common printed image to the material to be printed as the material to be printed is passed through said second printing group in said production direction, said second printing group being located after said first printing group in said production direction;

at least one first printing forme on said first forme cylinder and having at least two first print image locations, each of said at least two first print image locations being correlated with said at least one common printed image, each said at least two first print image locations having a first print image location length in said circumferential direction of said first forme cylinder and a first print image location width in said axial direction of said first forme cylinder;

at least one second printing forme on said second forme cylinder and having at least two second print image locations, each of said at least two second print image locations being correlated with said at least one common printed image, each said at least two second

print image locations having a second print image location length in said circumferential direction of said second forme cylinder and a second print image location width in said axial direction of said second forme cylinder;

an image application system adapted to form said first and second print image locations on said first and second printing formes on said first and second forme cylinder; and

at least one of a longitudinal elongation of the material to be printed in said production direction and a transverse elongation of the material to be printed transverse to said production direction, said longitudinal elongation having a longitudinal elongation factor, said transverse elongation having a transverse elongation factor, a spacing of said at least two first print image locations on said at least one first printing forme on said first forme cylinder, and a spacing of said at least two second print image locations on said at least one second printing forme on said forme cylinder being arranged by said image application system on said first and second printing formes as a function of at least one of said longitudinal elongation factor and said transverse elongation factor.

73. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein at least one of said print image location lengths and said print image location widths on at least one of said first and second forme cylinder vary from each other by one of a length factor and a width factor, said length factor being a function of said longitudinal elongation factors, said width factor being a function of said transverse elongation factor.

74. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein each of said at least two printing image locations and said at least one printing forme on at least one of said first and second forme cylinder each have a center point, said center points of said at least two printing image locations being aligned in an axial direction of said forme cylinder, said center point of a first one of said at least two print image locations differing from said center point of a second

one of said at least two print positions as a function of one of said longitudinal elongation factor and said transverse elongation factor.

75. (Currently Amended) The printing press of claim 74 further wherein said center points of said at least two print ~~image-range~~ locations on said at least first and second forme cylinder differ from each other as a function of one of said longitudinal elongation factor and said transverse elongation factor.

76. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein one of said print image location length and said print image location width of at least one of said two first and second print image locations is increased by one of said longitudinal elongation factors and said transverse elongation factors.

77. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein each of said longitudinal elongation factor and said transverse elongation factor is a function of one of a mechanical stretching and a dampening of the material to be printed.

78. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein said longitudinal elongation factor and said transverse elongation factor are variable.

79. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein said material to be printed is a web.

80. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein each said forme cylinder has six of said print locations in said axial direction.

81. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein each said forme cylinder has two of said print locations in said circumferential direction.

82. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein each said printing forme has a single print location.

83. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein each said forme cylinder has six of said printing formes in said axial direction.

84. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein each said forme cylinder has two of said printing formes in said circumferential direction.

85. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein said first transfer cylinder and said second transfer cylinder transfer different portions of said common ink image to the material to be printed.

86. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein each of said first transfer cylinder and said second transfer cylinder transfer different ink colors to said common printed image.

87. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 further including at least four printing groups arranged in said production direction, said ink transfer cylinder of each of said at least four printing groups transferring a different ink color to said common printed image.

88. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein each said ink transfer cylinder operates as an offset cylinder.

89. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein said at least first and second printing groups imprint said material to be printed in recto and verso printing,
90. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein said first and second ink transfer cylinders roll off each other in at least one printing group, said material to be printed passing between said first and second transfer cylinders.
91. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein said printing press is a newspaper printing press.
92. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 further including at least one printing forme holding device on each said forme cylinder.
93. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 further including at least one register pin in at least one of said first and second forme cylinders, said register pin being usable to align said at least one printing forme in said axial direction.
94. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 wherein said at least one printing forme is displaced axially as a function of said transverse elongation factor.
95. (Previously Presented) The printing unit of claim 72 further including a controllable actuator adapted to displace said at least one printing forme.
96. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 further including one of a printing forme holding device and a printing forme register pin in said forme cylinder and at least one controllable actuator adapted to displace said one of said holding device and register pin.

97. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 96 further including a plurality of printing formes on said at least one forme cylinder and wherein each of said plurality of printing formes is provided with said one of said holding device and said register pin.

98. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 further including a plurality of said printing formes on at least one of said forme cylinders, each of said plurality of printing formes being individually axially shiftable.

99. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 further including a controllable drive mechanism for at least one of said forme cylinder and said transfer cylinder of one of said first and second printing groups.

100. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 further including a phase relationship between said first printing group and said second printing group, said phase relationship being controlled as a function of said longitudinal elongation factor.

101. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 100 further including means to continuously control said phase relationship.

102. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 100 further including means to control said phase relationship while said printing press is operational.

103. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 72 further including a control console for said printing press.

104. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 73 further including a memory for at least one of said first and second printing groups, and wherein said memory contains at least one value for at least one of said length factor and said width factor.

105. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 74 further including a memory for at least one value of said center point of said at least first and second printing groups following each other in said production direction.

106. (Previously Presented) The printing press of claim 74 further including a memory for at least one value of said center points of said two print image locations on one of said first and second forme cylinders.

107. (Currently Amended) A method for compensating for one of a longitudinal and transverse elongation of a material to be imprinted including:

providing a first printing group including a first forme cylinder having a first forme cylinder axial direction and a first forme cylinder circumferential direction, and a first ink transfer cylinder adapted to transfer a first portion of at least one common printed image to a material to be printed as the material to be printed is passed through said first printing group in a production direction;

providing a second printing group including a second forme cylinder having a second forme cylinder axial direction and a second forme cylinder circumferential direction and a second ink transfer cylinder adapted to transfer a second portion of said at least one common printed image to the material to be printed as the material to be printed is passed through said second printing group in said production direction, said second printing group being located after said first printing group in said production direction;

providing at least one first print image location on said first forme cylinder and being correlated with said at least one common printed image, said at least one first print image location having a first print image location length in said circumferential direction of said first forme cylinder and a first print image location width in said axial direction of said first forme cylinder;

providing at least one second print image location on said second forme cylinder and being correlated with said at least one common printed image, said at least one second print image location having a second print image location length in said circumferential direction of said second forme cylinder and a second print image location width in said axial direction of said second forme cylinder;

providing an image application system for forming said first and second print image locations on said first and second forme cylinder;

determining at least one of a longitudinal elongation of the material to be printed in said production direction and a transverse elongation of the material to be printed transverse to said production direction, said longitudinal elongation having a longitudinal elongation factor, said transverse elongation having a transverse elongation factor;

arranging a spacing of said at least first print image location on said first forme cylinder, and a spacing of said at least second print image location on said at least one second printing forme on said forme cylinder using said image application system; and

changing one of said second print image location length on said second forme cylinder with respect to said first print image location length on said forme cylinder by a print image length factor and said second print image location width with respect to said first print image location width by a print image width function using said image application system.

108. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 107 further including providing a center point on at least one of said second print image locations and changing said second center

point with respect to a center point on at least a corresponding one of said first print image locations.

109. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108 further including providing at least one first printing forme on said first forme cylinder, said first printing forme having at least two first print image locations, each of said at least two first ~~two~~ print image locations being correlated with said at least one common print image, providing at least one second printing forme on said second forme cylinder, said second forme having at least two second print image locations, each of said at least two second print image locations being correlated with said at least one print image; and using said image application cylinder for changing a center point of a first of said two first print locations with respect to a second of said two first print image locations; and aligning said at least first printing forme and said at least second printing forme in axial directions of said respective first and second forme cylinders.

110. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 109 further including changing one of a length and a width and a location of a print image location using one of said longitudinal elongation factor and said transverse elongation factor.

111. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 109 further including changing one of said length and said width of a print image location by changing a position of said printing forme in said forme cylinder.

112. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 107 further including determining one of said print image length factor and said print image width factor as a function of said transverse elongation factor.

113. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 108 further including determining one of said print image length factor and said print image width factor of said at least one first printing forme as a function of said at least one second printing forme.

114. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 113 further including continuously determining a desired value of one of said print image location length and said print image location width.

115. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 109 further including changing said location of said at least one first printing forme when an actual value of at least one of said print image location length and said print image location width exceeds a permissible deviation from a desired value.

116. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 107 further including determining tones of colors transferred by each of said at least first and second ink transfer cylinders.

117. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 115 further including determining said desired values for each of said at least first and second forme cylinders.

118. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 115 further including determining said desired values for each of said at least first and second printing formes arranged on each of said first and second forme cylinders.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 115 further including providing a memory and storing said desired value in said memory.

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 108 further including supplying locations of said first and second center point locations to said image application system.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 109 further including using said image application system for providing images to said printing formes as a function of at least one of a color tone of said ink transfer cylinder, an arrangement of said first and second forme cylinders and an arrangement of said printing formes arranged on said forme cylinders.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 119 further including providing said determined values to said image application system.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 107 further including changing said longitudinal elongation factor and said transverse elongation factor in response to one of applying moisture to said material to be printed and mechanical elongation of said material to be printed.